

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 18209 191811Z

45

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 NSC-05 ACDE-00

ERDE-00 /083 W

----- 102140

R 191527Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8041

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST WOEO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCEUR

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18209

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 18209 191811Z

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, NATO, UR
SUBJECT: PRAVDA ON OPTION III

1. SUMMARY. A TASS ARTICLE IN PRAVDA DECEMBER 19 INFORMS THE SOVIET PUBLIC FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT THE WEST HAS PROPOSED TO REDUCE ITS NUCLEAR FORCES IN EUROPE AS PART OF AN MBFR AGREEMENT. THE ARTICLE PLAYS DOWN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE OFFER, THOUGH IT AVOIDS INDEPENDENT COMMENT AND RELIES ON A PARAPHRASE OF THE CZECH DELEGATION STATEMENT TO DESCRIBE THE WARSAW PACT REACTION. IT IS CAREFUL NOT TO CONDEMN THE WESTERN OFFER OUTRIGHT. END SUMMARY.

2. THE TASS ARTICLE, DATELINED VIENNA, NOTES AT THE OUTSET THAT THE USSR "ASCRIBES GREAT IMPORTANCE" TO THE NEGOTIATIONS, QUOTING THE MBFR PORTION FROM BREZHNEV'S WARSAW SPEECH AS AUTHORITY. IT AGURES THAT THE "SOCIALIST" STATES BELIEVE THAT IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT THE TALKS ARE FRUITFUL, STRICT OBSERVANCE OF CERTAIN PRINCIPLES IS NECESSARY--NON-DIMINUATION OF SECURITH OF ANY STATE, RECIPROCITY IN REDUCTION, EQUALITY OF OBLIGATIONS, AND ABSENCE OF UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE.

3. THE ARTICLE FURTHER STATES THAT THE WEST, HOWEVER, "CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN ITS OLD POSITIONS" DURING THE JUST FINISHED ROUND, AND ARGUES THAT THESE POSITIONS ARE DIRECTED AT THE GOAL OF CHANGING THE BALANCE OF FORCES IN EUROPE. ONLY THEN TURNING TO OPTION III, IT EXPLAINS THAT "AT THE END OF THE ROUND THE WESTERN DELEGATIONS TOOK A STEP WHICH HAD BEEN PROPAGANDIZED IN ADVANCE IN THE WESTERN PRESS." IT DESCRIBES THE WESTERN OFFER TO REDUCE SOME PART OF ITS TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS" IN EXCHANGE FOR "COMPLETE ACCEPTANCE" OF THE WESTERN REDUCTION PROPOSAL, WHICH HAD BEEN AIMED AT OBTAINING UNILATERAL ADVANTAGES FOR NATO.

4. SIDESTEPPING AN INDEPENDENT COMMENT ON THE OPTION III PROPOSAL, THE ARTICLE PARAPHRASES THREE POINTS FROM THE PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT BY CZECH DELEGATION HEAD LAGODA: THE PACT ADVOCATES REDUCTION OF ALL WEAPONS SYSTEMS, INCLUDING NUCLEAR, "ON AN EQUAL BASIS FOR ALL COUNTRIES"; THE PROPOSAL IS STILL EMBEDDED IN THE PREVIOUS NATO PROPOSAL, WHICH IS UNACCEPTABLE; BUT THE WESTERN PROPOSAL "WILL, AS IS USUAL, BE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 18209 191811Z

STUDIED."

5. THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH THEN STATES, WITHOUT ATTRIBUTION TO ANY SOURCE, THAT "IN ORDER TO REACH PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, THE WESTERN COUNTRIES MUST CEASE THEIR UNREALISTIC DEMANDS AND TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE WELL-FOUNDED PROPOSALS BY THE SOCIALIST STATES."

6. COMMENT: THE ARTICLE BADMOUTHS THE NEW OFFER BUT IS
CAREFUL NOT TO CONDEMN IT. THIS INITIAL, NOT VERY
AUTHORITATIVE, REACTION SEEMS TO US AS MUCH AS COULD HAVE
BEEN EXPECTED--THE PROPOSAL IS PLAYED DOWN, BUT NOT
REJECTED. END COMMENT.
STOESSEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, NUCLEAR FORCES, OPTION III
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW18209
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750442-0031
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751224/aaaaausr.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <08 JUL 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRAVDA ON OPTION III
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, UR, XG, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006